

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for destroying blood vessels contained at a selected depth and in a selected area of the dermis comprising the steps of :
 - (a) positioning a laser so that light from said laser will impinge upon the selected area of the dermis; and
 - (b) operating said laser to deliver light to said area having a wavelength between 700 nm and 1100 nm, with each pulse delivering a fluence at the surface above said area of between 5 joules per square centimeter and 100 joules per square centimeter and each pulse having a pulse duration of between 0.2 millisecond and 100 milliseconds.
 - a 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said light impinges upon an area at said surface of between 0.1 square centimeter and 10 square centimeters.
 - a 3. The method of claim 1 wherein, during step (b) said laser is operated to deliver a single pulse.
 4. The method of claim 1 including the step of repeating steps (a) and (b) for additional areas of the dermis containing blood vessels to be destroyed.
 5. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) includes the step of controlling the fluence delivered by the laser to said surface to control said selected depth.
 6. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) includes the step of controlling the pulse duration depending on the size of the blood vessel to be destroyed.
 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said pulse duration is between 1.0 milliseconds and 30 milliseconds.
 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the laser is a continuous wave laser and wherein step (b) includes the step of gating the laser to provide the pulsed light.
 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the laser is a high repetition laser and wherein step (b) includes the step of gating the laser to provide the pulsed light.
 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said blood vessels are leg veins and wherein step (a) includes the step of positioning the laser at a portion of said leg vein which is to be treated and destroyed.
 11. The method of claim 1 wherein said blood vessels are telangiectasias and

wherein step (a) includes the step of positioning the laser at a portion of said telangiectasias which is to be treated and destroyed.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said blood vessels are port wine stains and wherein step (a) includes the step of positioning the laser over a portion of said port wine stains which are to be treated and destroyed.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said blood vessels are at the base of hair follicles and wherein step (a) includes the step of positioning the laser over a portion of said hair follicles which are to be treated and destroyed.

a 14. The method of claim 1 wherein said blood vessels ^{underlie} ~~are~~ psoriatic plaque and wherein step (a) includes the step of positioning the laser over a portion of said psoriatic plaque which are to be treated and destroyed.

Sil 02 15. A method for selectively destroying veins contained at a selected depth and in a selected area of the dermis of a person's leg comprising the steps of :

(a) positioning a laser so that light from said laser will impinge upon the dermis of a person's leg in said selected area; and

(b) operating said laser to deliver light having a wavelength between 700 nm and 1100 nm, each pulse delivering a fluence at the surface above said area of between 5 joules per square centimeter and 100 joules per square centimeter and each pulse having a pulse duration of between 0.2 millisecond and 100 milliseconds.